

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-10 and 12-28 were pending at the time of the mailing of the Final Office Action. By this amendment, Claims 1, 10 and 21 have been amended and Claim 9 has been cancelled.

In the Advisory Action of September 5, 2008, the Examiner maintained the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guy et al. (US 5,334,164) in view of Stevens et al. (US 5,935,112).

Applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 21 to recite in pertinent part a sealing assembly with a tubular main body having a flange and a diaphragm forming a common plane end face (emphasis added) and extending from a longitudinal end thereof.

This particular combination of features - *a sealing assembly having a diaphragm and a flange at the same longitudinal end of a tubular main body* - , as recited in independent Claims 1 and 21, is not shown or suggested by the prior art of record. Based upon the above, applicants believe that amended independent Claims 1 and 21, and thereby Claims 2-8, 10, 12, 16, 18 and 20, and Claims 17, 19 and 22-28, respectively, are patentable over the art of record and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection of the claims.

Applicants believe that in view of the amendments and above remarks the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Final Office Action was issued May 15, 2008. The Examiner set a period for reply of 3 months from the mailing date. Applicants believe that this response is properly filed with a request for a two-month extension of time, and such a request is hereby made. Additionally, the Applicants hereby make a conditional petition for any necessary

additional extensions of time for response in the event that such a petition is required. No other fees are believed to be due with this response. However, in the event that any additional fees for the filing of his response are required to be sufficient, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deficiency or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 15-0450.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 16, 2008

/James D. Schweikert/

James D. Schweikert
Reg. No 58,057
Hahn Loeser + Parks LLP
One GOJO Plaza
Suite 300
Akron, OH 44311

Attorney for Applicants